

W I L D E R N E S S
Q U O T E S

KEEP WILDERNESS
WILD



Arthur Carhart
National Wilderness
Training Center

Our newly found capacity for dealing massed death has us to overlook momentarily the more gentle sciences which underwrite life and affect the survival of man as surely as does the atom. In the last analysis, what we know and do in conservation... will determine whether or not people and nations of the earth will continue to exist.

Arthur H. Carhart, 1962

ARTHUR CARHART NATIONAL WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER

Our mission is to foster
interagency excellence in
wilderness stewardship by
cultivating knowledgeable,
skilled and capable wilder-
ness managers and by im-
proving public understanding
of wilderness philosophy,
values and processes.



The heavens declare God's glory and the magnificence of what made them. Each new dawn is a miracle; each new sky fills with beauty.

Their testimony speaks to the whole world and reaches to the ends of the earth.

In them is a path for the sun, who steps forth handsome as a bridegroom and rejoices like an athlete as he runs.

He starts at one end of the heavens and circles to the other end, and nothing can hide from his heat.

Psalm 19:1-6

In the point of rest at the center of our being, we encounter a world where all things are at rest in the same way. Then a tree becomes a mystery, a cloud a revelation, each man a cosmos of whose riches we can only catch glimpses. The life of simplicity is simple, but it opens to us a book in which we never get beyond the first syllable.

Dag Hammarskjöld

You can only go halfway into the darkest forest; then you are coming out the other side.

Chinese Proverb

Gueorgui loved the forest, this forest as old as a legend, gentle as a mother and stern as a father.

Nicolai Levkov

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

Aldo Leopold



When I would recreate myself, I seek the darkest wood, the thickest and most interminable, and to the citizen, most dismal swamp. I enter the swamp as a sacred place—a sanctum sanctorum. There is the strength, the marrow of Nature.

Henry David Thoreau

Clambering up the Cold Mountain path,
The Cold Mountain trail goes on and on:
The long gorge choked with scree and boulders,
The wide creek, the mist-blurred grass.
The moss is slippery, though there's been no rain
The pine sings, but there's no wind.
Who can leap the world's ties
And sit with me among the white clouds?

Han-shan

No matter how cold and wet you are, you're always warm and dry.

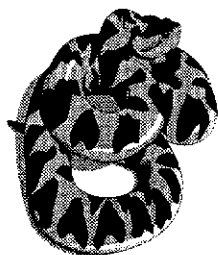
Old Woodsman's (Lie) Adage

Then he was told:
Remember what you have seen,
because everything forgotten
returns to the circling winds.

Lines from a Navajo chant

Many of our greatest American thinkers, men of the caliber of Thomas Jefferson, Henry Thoreau, Mark Twain, William James, and John Muir, have found the forest an effective stimulus to original thought.

Bob Marshall



Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being. And I saw the sacred hoop of my people was one of the many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father. And I saw that it was holy...

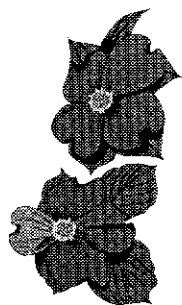
Black Elk

Dew evaporates
and all our world
is dew...so dear,
so refreshing, so fleeting.

Issa, Japanese

(Forests are) the "lungs" of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.

Franklin D. Roosevelt



The potential output of the 9,000 million acres of world forest...indicate(s) that the forests can be made to produce about 50 times their present volume of end products and still remain a permanently self-renewing source for our raw-material supplies. Only forests—no other raw-material resource—can yield such returns. The forest can, and so must, end the chronic scarcities of material goods that have harassed man's existence since the beginning of history.

Egon Glesinger

I've known rivers:
I've known rivers ancient as the world and older
than the flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were
young.
I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to
sleep.
I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids
above it.
I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe
Lincoln went down to New Orleans, and I've
seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the
sunset.

I've known rivers:
Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like rivers.

Langston Hughes

For in their hearts doth Nature stir them so,
Then people long on pilgrimage to go,
And palmers to be seeding foreign strands,
To distant shrines renowned in sundry lands.

Geoffrey Chaucer

I...thanked the Author of my being for the gift of
that wild forest, those green mansions where I had
found so great a happiness!

William Henry Hudson

Old-growth forests remind me of an old folks
home, just waiting to die.

Anonymous Reagan Administration Official



Sequoias, kings of their race, growing close together like grass in a meadow, poised their brave domes and spires in the sky three hundred feet above the ferns and lilies that enameled the ground; towering serene through the long centuries, preaching God's forestry fresh from heaven.

John Muir

The shore is an ancient world, for as long as there has been an earth and sea there has been this place of the meeting of land and water. Yet it is a world that keeps alive the sense of continuing creation and of the relentless drive of life. Each time that I enter it, I gain some new awareness of its beauty and its deeper meanings, sensing that intricate fabric of life by which one creature is linked with another, and each with its surroundings...

There is a common thread that links these scenes and memories—the spectacle of life in all its varied manifestations as it has appeared, evolved, and sometimes died out. Underlying the beauty of the spectacle there is meaning and significance. It is the elusiveness of that meaning that haunts us, that sends us again and again into the natural world where the key to the riddle is hidden. It sends us back to the edge of the sea, where the drama of life played its first scene on earth and perhaps even its prelude; where the forces of evolution are at world today, as they have been since the appearance of what we know as life; and where the spectacle of living creatures faced by the cosmic realities of their world is crystal clear.

Rachel Carson



Forestry is the preservation of forests
by wise use.

Theodore Roosevelt

This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines
and the hemlocks...Stand like Druids of old.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Pilgrimage to the place of the wise is to escape
the flame of separation from Nature.

Old Sufi saying

The earth
laughs in flowers.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Experimenting
I hung the moon
on various
branches of the pine

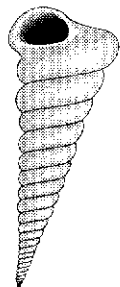
Hokushi

What a joy it is to feel the soft, springy earth
under my feet once more, to follow grassy roads
that lead to ferny brooks where I can bathe my
fingers in a cataract of rippling notes, or to
clamber over a stone wall into green fields that
tumble and roll and climb in riotous gladness!

Helen Keller, The Story of my Life

There is yet no social stigma in the possession of
a gullied form, a wrecked forest or a polluted
stream, provided the dividends suffice to send
the youngsters to college. What ever ails the
land, the government will fix it.

Aldo Leopold



Awareness is becoming acquainted with environment, no matter where one happens to be. Man does not suddenly become aware or infused with wonder; it is something we are born with. No child need be told its secret; he keeps it until the influence of gadgetry and the indifference of teen-age satiation extinguish its intuitive joy.

Sigurd Olson

And forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.

Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

So rests the sky against the earth. The dark still tarn in the lap of the forest. As a husband embraces his wife's body in faithful tenderness, so the bare ground and trees are embraced by the still, high, light of the morning.

I feel an ache of longing to share in this embrace, to be united and absorbed. A longing like carnal desire, but directed towards earth, water, sky, and returned by the whispers of the trees, the fragrance of the soil, the caresses of the wind, the embrace of water and light. Content? No, no, no—but refreshed, rested—while waiting.

Dag Hammarskjöld

Nothing is less known; nothing more neglected. The forest is a gift of nature which it is sufficient to accept just as it comes from her hands.

Georges-Lois Leclerc, comte de Buffon



How deep our sleep last night in the mountains here, beneath the trees and stars, hushed by solemn-sounding waterfalls and many small soothing voices in sweet accord whispering peace!

And our first pure mountain day, warm, calm, cloudless,—how immeasurable it seems, how serenely wild! I can scarcely remember its beginning. Along the river, over the hills, in the ground, in the sky, spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm, new life, new beauty, unfolding, unrolling in glorious exuberant extravagance,—new birds in their nests, new winged creatures in the air, and new leaves, new flowers, spreading, shining, rejoicing everywhere.

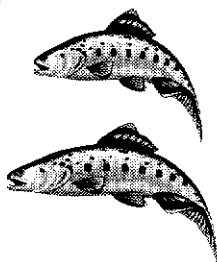
John Muir

I am in love with this world. I have nestled lovingly in it. I have climbed its mountains, roamed its forests, sailed its waters, crossed its deserts, felt the sting of its frosts, the oppression of its heats, the drench of its rains, the fury of its winds, and always have beauty and joy waited upon my goings and comings.

John Burroughs

How hard to realize that every camp of men or beast has this glorious starry firmament for a roof. In such places, standing alone on the mountaintop, it is easy to realize that whatever special nests we make—leaves and moss like the marmots and the birds, or tents or piled stone—we all dwell in a house of one room—the world with the firmament for its roof—and are sailing the celestial spaces without leaving any track.

John Muir



For a great tree death comes as a gradual transformation. Its vitality ebbs slowly. Even when life has abandoned it entirely it remains a majestic thing. On some hilltop a dead tree may dominate the landscape for miles around. Alone among living things it retains its character and dignity after death. Plants wither; animals disintegrate. But a dead tree may be as arresting, as filled with personality, in death as it is in life. Even in its final moments, when the massive trunk lies prone and it has moldered into a ridge covered with mosses and fungi, it arrives at a fitting and noble end. It enriches and refreshes the earth. And later, as part of other green and growing things, it rises again.

Edwin Way Teale

Do not try to satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things. Awaken people's curiosity. It is enough to open minds; do not overload them. Put there just a spark. If there is some good inflammable stuff, it will catch fire.

Anatole France

To us the ashes of our ancestors are sacred and their resting place is hallowed ground.

Chief Seattle, upon surrendering his land to Governor Isaac Stevens in 1855



The grand show is eternal.
Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset,
eternal dawn and gloaming,
on seas and continents and islands,
each in its turn, as the round earth rolls.

John Muir

The land, the earth God gave to man for his home...should never be the possession of any man, corporation, (or) society...any more than the air or water.

Abraham Lincoln

No land is bad, but land is worse. If a man owns land, the land owns him. Now let him leave home, if he dare.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

He who has known how to love the land has loved eternity.

Stefan Zeromski

The land belongs to the future...that's the way it seems to me. How many names on the county clerk's plat will be there in fifty years? I might as well try to will the sunset over there to my brother's children. We come and go, but the land is always here. And the people who love it and understand it are the people who own it—for a little while.

Willa Cather

Land is immortal, for it harbors the mysteries of creation.

Anwar el-Sadat

The land was ours before...we were her people.

Robert Frost



Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants, and animals. food chains are the living channels which conduct energy upward; death and decay return it to the soil. The circuit is not closed; some energy is dissipated in decay, some is added by absorption from the air, some is stored in soils, peats, and long-lived forests; but it is a sustained circuit, like a slowly augmented revolving fund of life.

Aldo Leopold

A land ethic for tomorrow should be as honest as Thoreau's Walden, and as comprehensive as the sensitive science of ecology. It should stress the oneness of our resources and the live-and-help-live logic of the great chain of life. If, in our haste to "progress," the economics of ecology are disregarded by citizens and policy makes alike, the result will be an ugly America.

Stewart L. Udall

The art of land doctoring is being practiced with vigor, but the science of land health is yet to be born.

Aldo Leopold

The progressive impairment of the parks by budgetary bloodletting is a national disgrace.

Bernard De Voto

The mountains are fountains of men as well as of rivers, of glaciers, of fertile soil. The great poets, philosophers, prophets, able men whose thoughts and deeds have moved the world, have come down from the mountains—mountain-dwellers who have grown strong there with the forest trees in Nature's work-shops.

John Muir



Aldo Leopold

Park and open-space efforts can be described as an institutional reflection of the principal means by which urban man has historically engaged in the Edenic search. He has, since the beginnings of civilization, sought gardens in his cities, a pastoral landscape outside of his cities, and wilderness for retreat away from his cities. Baghdad boasted a thousand gardens; Alexander set aside one quarter of his north African city as a park;...wilderness served as retreat for Jesus of Nazareth, as it did later for the Waldensians and the Franciscans; and meditation in the wilderness is a common theme in Far Eastern cultures. Thus, there is good evidence that a propensity for greenery as a substitute Eden in urban civilizations is not a peculiarity of any single race, religion, or national culture.

Charles E. Little

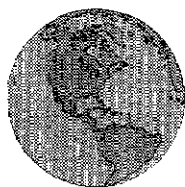
The preservationist is not an elitist who wants to exclude others, notwithstanding popular opinion to the contrary; he is a mortalist who wants to convert them. He is concerned about what other people do in the parks not because he is unaware of the diversity of taste in the society, but because he views certain kinds of activity as calculated to undermine the attitudes he believes the parks can, and should, encourage.

Joseph Sax

Where there is no vision, the people perish.
Bible, Proverbs 29:18

If you plan for a year, plant rice. If you plan for ten years, plant trees. If you plan for 100 years, educate your children.

Chinese Proverb



As we watch the sun go down, evening after evening, through the smog across the poisoned waters of our native earth, we must ask ourselves seriously whether we really wish some future universal historian on another planet to say about us: "With all their genius and with all their skill, they ran out of foresight and air and food and water and ideas," or, "They went on playing politics until their world collapsed around them."

U Thant

Make no little plans, they have no power to stir men's souls.

Daniel H. Burnham

When I discovered a new plant, I sat down beside it for a minute or a day, to make its acquaintance and hear what it had to tell... I asked the boulders I met, whence they came and whither they were going.

John Muir

We of the genus Homo ride the logs that float down the Round river, and by a little judicious "burling" we have learned to guide their direction and speed. This feat entitles us to the specific appellation sapiens. The technique of burling is called economics, the remembering of old routes is called history, the selection of new ones is called statesmanship, the conversation about oncoming riffles and rapids is called politics. Some of the crew aspire to burl not only their own logs, but the whole flotilla as well. This collective bargaining with nature is called national planning.

Aldo Leopold

Not to have known—as most men have not—either the mountain or the desert is not to have known one's self.

Joseph Wood Krutch



(Plants) are superb opportunists, making the most of different combinations of water, air, soil, and climate. Their grip on the planet, their capacities for colonization, and their integration with the environment are due to an astounding diversification and variety.

Anthony Huxley

There are no idealists in the plant world and no compassion. The rose and the morning glory know no mercy. Bindweed, the morning glory, will quickly choke its competitors to death, and the fencerow rose will just as quietly crowd out any other plant that tried to share its roothold. Idealism and mercy are human terms and human concepts.

Hal Borland

There is no plant that is unimportant. The genetic information contained in the germ plasm of each species is unique and cannot be reproduced once the last living tissue is gone.

Edward S. Ayensu

Flowers in a city are like lipstick on a woman—it just makes you look better to have a little color.

Lady Bird Johnson

You may not ever travel to Maine to see the Furbish lousewort. But the weeds in any patch of natural vegetation issue the same challenge. We have survived, say the weeds, since the Cretaceous. Man is a mere novice in evolution compared with us. He hasn't yet learnt the secret of the weeds: how to create fail-safe communities.

Eric Ashby



Dandelions are the supreme symbol of the failure of human control, a yellow flag of mockery, and every time we burn that flag, back it comes, stronger than ever. No plant or animal is as obstinately perverse in its flaunting of human wishes.

David Ehrenfeld

The time is almost upon us when a pack-train must wind its way up a graveled highway and turn its belimare in the pasture of a summer hotel. When that day comes, the pack-train will be dead, the diamond hitch will be merely rope, and Kit Carson and Jim Bridger will be names in a history lesson. And thenceforth the march of empire will be a matter of gasoline and four wheel brakes.

Aldo Leopold

Touch the earth, love the earth, honor the earth: her plains, her valleys, her hills, and her seas; rest your spirit in her solitary places.

Henry Beston

I believe we have a profound fundamental need for areas of the earth where we stand without our mechanisms that make us immediate masters over our environment.

**Howard Zahniser - principal author of the
Wilderness Act**

The universe has been quite literally writing upon humans for many thousands of years, and our alphabets are among the trails that nature has carved in order to cross our minds. Wild lands have cut deeper trails in my life than I will ever be able to make in the forest.

Joe Meeker



Acceptance is the art of making the obstacle the path. Therefore, embrace the enemy. This is the lesson of the river guide: face the danger, move toward it, that's where the current is the strongest, and it will carry you around the obstacle. Use it.

China Galland

There is just one hope of repulsing the tyrannical ambition of civilization to conquer every inch on the whole earth. That hope is the organization of spirited people who will fight for the freedom and preservation of wilderness.

Bob Marshall

If we are to have broad-thinking men and women of high mentality, of good physique and with a true perspective on life, we must allow our populace a communion with nature in areas of more or less wilderness condition.

Arthur Carhart

At the gates of the forest, the surprised man of the world is forced to leave his city estimates of great and small, wise and foolish. The knapsack of custom falls off his back.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

As we traversed the seemingly endless jumble, we became aware of a sensation new to us: at a time and in a part of the world where opportunity to do so was rapidly vanishing, we knew that this was the way it felt to be pioneers, bound for a land so little visited that it was as if no man had come this way before.

Phoebe Anne Sumner



I have come to terms with the future. From this day onward I will walk easy on the earth. Plant trees. Kill no living things. Live in harmony with all creatures. I will restore the earth where I am. Use no more of its resources than I need. And listen, listen to what it is telling me.

M. J. Slim Hooley

The survival of the human species is inescapably linked with the survival of all other forms of life.

Michael Frome

There is no quiet place in white man's cities. No place to hear the unfurling of leaves in the Spring or the rustle of an insect's wings.

Chief Seattle

When the bird and the book disagree, always believe the bird.

Birdwatcher's Proverb

Sometimes the rare, the beautiful can only emerge or survive in isolation. In a similar manner, some degree of withdrawal serves to nurture man's creative powers. The artist and scientist bring out of the dark void, like the mysterious universe itself, the unique, the strange, and unexpected.

Loren Eiseley



We want a ground to which people may easily go after their day's work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour, seeing, hearing, and feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the streets, where they shall, in effect, find the city put far away from them....Practically, what we most want is a simple, broad, open space of clean greensward, with sufficient play of surface and a sufficient number of trees about it to supply a vairyety of light and shade....We want depth of wood enough about it not only for comfort in hot weather, but to completely shut out the city from our landscapes.

Frederick Law Olmsted

Parks have plainly not come as the direct result of any of the great inventions or discoveries of the century. They are not, with us, simply an improvement on what we had before, growing out of a general advance of the arts applicable to them....It would seem rather to have been a common spontaneous movement of that sort which we conveniently refer to the "Genius of Civilization."

Fredrick Law Olmsted

Parks are at the center of a community's character; they reflect and strengthen the sense of place and identity that makes cities fit places for people.

Conservation Foundation



To the extent that we create or maintain beauty through an ordered diversity, we will also enhance the stability, health, and productivity of America.

Raymond F. Dasmann

Beauty created by Nature is equal in value to, and to be accorded reverence equal to that of the beauty of music, art or poetry of man, and experts are available to testify as to degrees of natural beauty just as they are able to testify to the quality of mortals' art.

David Sive

There can be no greater moral obligation in the environmental field than to ease out the living space and replace dereliction by beauty.

Frank Fraser Darling

Ordinarily the demands of utility are imperative and scenic beauty where it stands in the way must yield.

Hiram Chittenden

Out of our human needs, perhaps, will come the strongest argument for preventing the blind destruction of the plant world and its natural habitats. This will not simply be for utilitarian reasons but increasingly because of the demand for that unspoiled scenery provide.

Anthony Huxley

We believe that ugliness begets ugliness and that nature's beauty, once destroyed, may never be restored by the artifice of man.

Carl Carmer



The enjoyment of the choicest natural scenes in the country and the means of recreation connected with them is a monopoly...of a very few rich people....For the same reason that the water of rivers should be guarded against private appropriation and the use of it for the purpose of navigation and otherwise protected against obstruction, portions of the natural scenery may therefore properly be guarded and cared for by government...The establishment by government of great public grounds is thus justified and enforced as a public duty.

Frederick Law Olmsted

If a certain assemblage of trees, of mountains, of waters, and of houses that we call a landscape is beautiful, it is not because of itself, but through me, through my own indulgence, through the thought or the sentiment that I attach to it.

Charles Baudelaire

I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Indeed, unless the billboards fall
I'll never see a tree at all.

Ogden Nash

Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language. The quality of cranes lies, I think, in this higher gamut, as yet beyond the reach of words.

Aldo Leopold



Humanity is cutting down its forests, apparently oblivious to the fact that we may not be able to live without them.

Isaac Asimov

I am trying to save the knowledge that the forests and this planet are alive, to give it back to you who have lost the understanding.

Paulinho Paikan

At first, the people talking about ecology were only defending the fishes, the animals, the forest, and the river. They didn't realize that human beings were in the forest—and that these humans were the real ecologist, because they couldn't live without the forest and the forest couldn't be saved without them.

Osmarino Amancio Rodrigues

Thank God, they cannot cut down the clouds!

Henry David Thoreau

Her mighty lakes, like oceans of liquid silver; her mountains with their bright aerial tints; her valleys, teeming with wild fertility; her tremendous cataracts, thundering in their solitudes; her boundless plains, waving with spontaneous verdure; her broad deep rivers, rolling in solemn silence to the ocean; her trackless forests, where vegetation puts forth all its magnificence; her skies, kindling with the magic of summer clouds and glorious sunshine;—no, never need an American look beyond his own country for the sublime and beautiful of natural scenery.

Washington Irving



Man is not himself only...

He is all that he sees;
all that flows to him from a
thousand sources...

He is the land, the lift of its
mountain lines, the
reach of its valleys.

Mary Austin

Here is calm
so deep, grasses cease waving...
wonderful how completely
everything in wild
nature fits into us, as if truly part
and parent of us. The
sun shines not on us, but in us. The
rivers flow not past,
but through us, thrilling, tingling,
vibrating every fiber
and cell of the substance of our
bodies, making them glide and sing.

John Muir

Never a day passes but that I do myself the
honor to commune with some of nature's varied
forms.

George Washington Carver

Those who have the humility of a child may find
again the key to reverence for, and kinship with,
all life.

J. Allen Boone

I only went out for a walk, and finally
concluded to stay out until sundown; for
going out, I found, was really going in.

John Muir



On a clear winter morning, just as the sun rises high enough for its slanting rays to shine horizontally through the trees, disclosing each branch and needle, backlit and rimmed with fire, each intricate facet of the snow crystals distinct and glittering, each contour and dip of the land plainly outlined by the conforming snow, I lay my track through the snow—a silent listener awaiting Being. And Being responds. I move so silently and swiftly that deer, rabbits, and weasels are surprised and caught in their inner lives; so swiftly and silently they do not flee but stand out in their beings. Each tree-being, aspen and fir, lit from within, stands out. The shape of the land is shown forth more clearly than in the summer, when its contours are masked and hidden by vegetation. The earth more present, the sky more present, I, the human, more present in total awareness...

Dolores La Chapelle

Speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee.
Job 12:8

All things are symbols: the external shows of Nature have their image in the mind...
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The still mind of the sage is a mirror of heaven and earth...
Chuang Tzu

I have learned a lot from trees;
Sometimes about the weather,
Sometimes about animals.
Sometimes about the Great Spirit.
Walking Buffalo



If you understand, things are just as they are; if
do not understand, things are just as they are.

Zen Verse

Beauty is composed of many things and never
stands alone. It is part of horizons, blue in the
distance, great primeval silences, knowledge of
all things of the earth...It is so fragile it can be
destroyed by a sound or thought. It may be
infinitesimally small or encompass the universe
itself. It comes in a swift conception wherever
nature has not been disturbed.

Sigurd Olsen

Simplicity in all things is the secret of the
wilderness and one of its most valuable lessons. It
is what we leave behind that is important. I think
the matter of simplicity goes further than just food,
equipment, and unnecessary gadgets; it goes
into the matter of thoughts and objectives as
well. When in the wilds, we must not carry our
problems with us or the joy is lost.

Sigurd Olsen

And this, our life exempt from public haunt,
finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
sermons in stones, and good in everything.

William Shakespeare

The old Lakota was wise. He knew that man's
heart, away from nature, becomes hard; he
knew that lack of respect for growing, living
things soon led to lack of respect for humans too.

Luther Standing Bear



I think I could turn and live with the animals,
they are so placid and self-contained.

Walt Whitman

With beauty before me,
May I walk
With beauty behind me,
May I walk
With beauty above me,
May I walk
With beauty below me,
May I walk
With beauty all around me,
May I walk
Wandering on a trail of beauty,
Lively, I walk

Navajo Indians

The old people came literally to love the soil
and they sat or reclined on the ground with a
feeling of being close to a mothering power. It
was good for the skin to touch the earth and
the old people liked to remove their moccasins
and walk with bare feet on the sacred earth.
Their tipis were built upon the earth and their
altars were made of earth. The birds that flew
into the air come to rest upon the earth and it
was the final abiding place of all things that
lived and grew. The soil was soothing, strength-
ening, cleansing and healing.

*Luther Standing Bear,
Land of the Spotted Eagle*

The wonder of the world, the beauty and the
power, the shapes of things, their colors, lights
and shade. These I saw. Look ye also while life
lasts.

*From an old gravestone in Cumberland, England,
Favorite quote of F. Lee Jaques*



To look at any thing,
If you would know that thing,
You must look at it long:
To look at this green and say
'I have seen spring in these
woods,' will not do—you must
Be the thing you see:
You must be the dark snakes of
Stems and ferny plumes of leaves,
You must enter in
To the small silences between
The leaves,
You must take your time
And touch the very peace
They issue from.

John Moffitt, To Look at Any Thing

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night.
It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter time. It is
the little shadow which runs across the grass and
loses itself in the Sunset.

Crowfoot

The greatest beauty is organic wholeness, the
wholeness of life and things, the divine beauty of
the universe. Love that, not man apart from that...

Robinson Jeffers

The thoughts of the earth are my thoughts.
The voice of the earth is my voice.
All that belongs to the earth belongs to me.
All that surrounds the earth surrounds me.
It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed.

Navajo Song



What is curious about this singular acknowledgment of landscape for other than economic values is that its political justification is not primarily a matter of "taste" or aesthetics, but rather of egalitarian public service, having to do with recreational opportunity and, to a lesser extent, ecological "balance" as a subsidiary rationale.

Charles E. Little

The "control of nature" is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man.

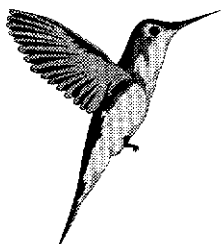
Rachel Carson

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter. The lasting pleasures of contact with the natural world are not reserved for scientist but are available to anyone who will place himself under the influence of earth, sea, and sky, and their amazing life.

Rachel Carson

There is not as much wilderness out there as I wish there were. There is more inside than you think.

David Brower



Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity, that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.

John Muir

Conservation is the foresighted utilization, preservation and/or renewal of forest, waters, lands and minerals, for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time.

Gifford Pinchot

There is a delight in the hardy life of the open. There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy and its charm. The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value. Conservation means development as much as it does protection.

Theodore Roosevelt

On the path that leads to Nowhere I have sometimes found my Soul.

Corrine Roosevelt Robins

Natural beauty and wonder are priceless heirlooms which God has bestowed upon our nation. How shall we escape the contempt of the coming generation if we suffer this irreplaceable heritage to be wasted?

Henry Van Dyke



The birds I heard today, which, fortunately, did not come within the scope of my science, sang as freshly as if it had been the first morning of creation.

Henry David Thoreau

I held a blue flower in my hand, probably a wild aster, wondering what its name was, and then thought that human names for natural things are superfluous. Nature herself does not name them. The important thing is to know this flower; look at its color until the blends becomes as real as a keynote of music. Look at the exquisite yellow flowerettes in the center, become very small with them. Be the flower, be the trees, the blowing grasses. Fly with the birds, jump with the squirrels!

Sally Carrighar, Home to the Wilderness

Hurt not the earth, neither the sea,
not the trees.

Revelation 7:3

i n the blue night
frost haze, the sky glows
with the moon
pine tree tops
bend snow-blue, fade
into sky, frost, starlight.
the creak of boots.
rabbit tracks, deer tracks,
what do we know.

Gary Snyder, Pine Tree Tops

Man is whole when he is in tune with the winds,
the stars, and the hills...Being in tune with the uni-
verse is the entire secret.

Justice William O. Douglas



You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children—that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves.

This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself...

Chief Seattle

Come forth into the light of things. Let Nature be your teacher.

William Wordsworth

The care of rivers is not a question of rivers, but of the human heart.

Tanaka Shozo

The fairest thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion at the cradle of true art and true science. He who knows it not is as good as dead, a snuffed-out candle...

Albert Einstein



The beauty of nature includes all that is called beautiful, as its flower, and all that is not called beautiful, as its stalk and roots.

Indeed, when I go to the woods or the fields, or ascend to the hilltop, I do not seem to be gazing upon beauty at all, but to be breathing it like the air. I am not dazzled or astonished; I am in no hurry to look lest it be gone. I would not have the litter and debris removed, or the bands trimmed, or the ground painted. What I enjoy is commensurate with the earth and sky itself. It clings to the rocks and trees; it is kindred to the roughness and savagery; it rises from every tangle and chasm; it perches on the dry oakstubs with the hawks and buzzards; the crows shed it from their wings and weave it into their nests of coarse sticks; the fox barks it, the cattle low it, and every mountain path leads to its haunts. I am not a spectator of, but a participator in it. It is not an adornment; its roots strike to the centre of the earth.

John Burroughs, Birds and Poets

Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth.

Isalah 5:8

If we were required to know the position of the fruit dots or the character of the endusium, nothing could be easier to ascertain, but if it is required that you be affected by ferns, that they amount to anything, signify anything to you, that they be another sacred scripture and revelation to you, help to redeem your life, this end is not so easily accomplished.

Henry David Thoreau



What a thing it is to sit absolutely alone,
in the forest, at night, cherished by this
wonderful, unintelligible,
perfectly innocent speech,
the most comforting speech in the world,
the talk that rain makes by itself all over the
bridges,
and the talk of the watercourses everywhere in
the hollows!

Nobody started it, nobody is going to stop it.
It will talk as long as it wants, this rain.
As long as it talks I am going to listen.

Thomas Merton, "Rain and the Rhinoceros"

My heart is tuned to the quietness that the
stillness of nature inspires.

Hazrat Inayat Khan

Coming, going, the waterfowl
Leaves not a trace,
Nor does it need a guide.

Zen Haiku

I think over again my small adventures;
my fears,
Those small ones that seemed so big;
For all the vital things
I had to get and to reach,
And yet there is only one great thing,
The only thing:
To live to see the great day that dawns
And the light that fills the world.

Old Inuit Song



I care to live only to entice people to look at nature's loveliness. My own special self is nothing (I want to be) like a flake of glass through which light passes.

John Muir

Walk away quietly in any direction and taste the freedom of the mountaineer...

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

John Muir

We love quiet; we suffer the mouse to play; when the woods are rustled by the wind, we fear not.

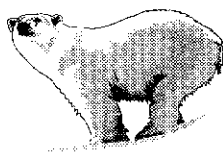
*Indian Chief to the governor of Pennsylvania,
1796*

Riverbanks lined with green trees, fragrant grasses; A place not sacred? Where?

Zen Forest Sayings

Believe one who knows; you will find something greater in woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters.

St. Bernard de Clairvaux



The supreme reality of our time is...
the vulnerability of our planet.

John F. Kennedy

See one promontory (said Socrates of old), one
mountain, one sea, one river, and see all.

Robert Burton

To the attentive eye, each moment of the year
has its own beauty, and in the same field, it
beholds, every hour, a picture which was never
seen before, and which shall never be seen
again.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Miller owns this field, Locke that, and Manning
the woodland beyond. But none of them owns
the landscape. There is a property in the horizon
which no man has but he whose eye can
integrate all the parts, that is, the poet. This is the
best part of these men's farms, yet to this their
warranty-deeds give no title.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The landscapes were like a violin bow that
played upon my soul.

Stendhal

No synonym for God is so perfect as Beauty.
Whether as seen carving the lines of the moun-
tains with glaciers, or gathering matter into stars,
or planning the movement of water, or garden-
ing—still all is Beauty!

John Muir



The hours when the mind is absorbed by beauty are the only hours when we truly live.

Richard Jefferies

To know one's landscape, to feel in sympathy with it, is often to be at peace with life. When all the world seems wrong and the burdens overwhelming he can look out on the familiar fields and hills or get among them and give way to their beauties of form and color as a resource within himself that will be an ever-present power of recuperation.

Richard E. Dodge

It is the love of country that has lighted and that keeps glowing the holy fire of patriotism. And this love is excited, primarily, by the beauty of the country.

J. Horace McFarland

The good news is that Americans will, in increasing numbers, begin to value and protect the vast American landscape. The bad news is that they may love it to death.

Charles E. Little

(The essence of what) we call America lies not so much in political institutions as in its rocks and skies and seas.

Paul Strand

Indifference to the aesthetic will in the long run lessen the economic product...attention to the aesthetic will increase economic welfare.

Josiah Stamp



The concept of public welfare is broad and inclusive...The values it represents are spiritual as well as physical, aesthetic as well as monetary. It is within the power of the legislature to determine that the community should be beautiful as well as healthy, spacious as well as clean.

William O. Douglas

I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty, which will protect the beauty of our natural environment, which will preserve the great old American houses and squares and parks of our national past and which will build handsome and balanced cities for our future.

John F. Kennedy

Making a town more beautiful and more human can lessen tensions and friction. Any city can do it; any city would do well to do it.

Lady Bird Johnson

The machine turned Nature into an art form. For the first time men began to regard Nature as a source of aesthetic and spiritual values.

Marshal McLuhan

We must not only protect the country side and save it from destruction, we must restore what has been destroyed and salvage the beauty and charm of our cities...Once our natural splendour is destroyed, it can never be recaptured. And once man can no longer walk with beauty or wonder at nature, his spirit will wither and his sustenance be wasted.

Lyndon B. Johnson



A Californian whom I had recently the pleasure of meeting observed that if the philosophers had lived among your mountains, their systems would have been different from what they are. Certainly very different from what those systems are which the European genteel tradition has handed down since Socrates; for these systems are egotistical; directly or indirectly they are anthropocentric, and inspired by the conceited notion the man, or human reason, or the human distinction between good and evil, is the center and pivot of the universe. That is what the mountains and the woods should make you at last ashamed to assert.

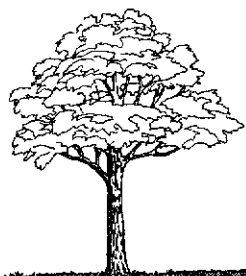
George Santayana

That wonderful world of high mountains, dazzling in their rock and ice, acts as a catalyst. It suggests the infinite but it is not the infinite. The heights only give us what we ourselves bring them.

Lucien Devies

The creation of the mental domain of phantasy has a complete counterpart in the establishment of "reservations" and "nature-parks." . . . The "reservation" is to maintain the old condition of things which has been regretfully sacrificed to necessity everywhere else; there everything may grow and spread as it pleases, including what is useless and even what is harmful. The mental realm of phantasy is also such a reservation reclaimed from the encroaches of the reality-principle.

Sigmund Freud



The earth,
born in fire,
baptized by lightning,
since before life's beginning has been and is,
a fire planet.

E.V. Komarek

Ability to see the cultural value of wilderness
boils down, in the last analysis, to a question of
intellectual humility. The shallow-minded modern
who has lost his rootage in the land assumes that
he has already discovered what is important.

Aldo Leopold

We who are gathered here may represent a
particular elite, not of money and power, but of
concern for the earth for the earth's sake.

Ansel Adams

Discovery consists of looking at the same thing
as everyone else and thinking something different.

Albert Szent-Gygyi

We are the most dangerous species of life on
the planet, and every other species, even the
earth itself, has cause to fear our power to
exterminate. But we are also the only species
which, when it chooses to do so, will go to great
effort to save what it might destroy.

Wallace Stegner

All living creatures and all plants are a benefit
to something.

Okute, Sioux Indian



There is a limit to the number of lands of shoreline on the lakes; there is a limit to the number of lakes in existence; there is a limit to the mountainous area of the world, and ...there are portions of natural scenic beauty which are God-made and ... which of a right should be the property of all people.

Arthur Carhart

How often we speak of the great silences of the wilderness and of the importance of preserving them and the wonder and peace to be found there. When I think of them, I see the lakes and rivers of the North, the muskegs and expanses of tundra, the barren lands beyond all roads. I see the mountain ranges of the West and the high, rolling ridges of the Appalachians. I picture the deserts of the Southwest and their brilliant panoramas of color, the impenetrable swamplands of the South. They will always be there and their beauty may not change, but should their silences be broken, they will never be the same.

Sigurd F. Olson

The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives.

Indian Proverb

The thing that I think is most important at this moment is an awareness of the totality of the person. One of the greatest stumbling blocks that people have today is understanding that one cannot experience life from the neck up... If I could I would wave a magic wand and have them be automatically convinced that brain existence is only a small part of their lives. They are missing out on a whole fantastic world.

Jean Berry



When I got to be 70, I thought, I'm going to take time to do what I really yearn to do, and that is work with native plants, wildflowers and trees, and encourage their use in the nation's landscape so they won't just be something of the past but will be passed on to our grandchildren.

Lady Bird Johnson

Since you're human, don't forget: It's not people who give pure, sweet water to plants — it's the black-wet-bland soil does that. Since you're human...

Makoto Ooka

The great purpose is to set aside a reasonable part of the vanishing wilderness, to make certain that generations of Americans yet unborn will know what it is to experience life on undeveloped, unoccupied land in the same form and character as the Creator fashioned it...It is a great spiritual experience. I never knew a man who took a bedroll onto an Idaho mountainside and slept there under a star-studded summer sky who felt self-important that next morning. Unless we preserve some opportunity for future generations to have the same experience, we shall have dishonored our trust.

Former Senator Frank Church

For me and for thousands with similar inclinations, the most important passion of life is the overpowering desire to escape periodically from the clutches of a mechanistic civilization. To us the enjoyment of solitude, complete independence, and the beauty of undefiled panoramas is absolutely essential to happiness.

Bob Marshall



The unlimited capacity of the plant world to sustain man at his highest is a region as yet unexplored by modern science.

Mohandas K. Gandhi

The earth's vegetation is part of a web of life in which there are intimate and essential relations between plants and the earth, between plants and other plants, between plants and animals. Sometimes we have no choice but to disturb these relationships, but we should do so thoughtfully, with full awareness that what we do may have consequences remote in time and place

Rachel Carson

A root, a stem, a leaf, some means of capturing sunlight and air and making food—in sum, a plant. The green substance of this earth, the chlorophyll, is all summed up in the plants. Without them we perish, all of us who are flesh and blood.

Hal Borland

The tallgrass prairie dazzles the eye with an unending array of blooming plants, and this spectacle, with some seventeen new species coming into bloom each week, lasts from March until October. The tallgrasses themselves, big bluestem, indiagrass, switchgrass, and cordgrass, to name the common ones, are the most powerful, the most expansive, the most majestic of all the prairie plants; they are the redwoods of the prairie.

Patricia D. Duncan



I do not know of a flowering plant that tastes good and is poisonous. Nature is not out to get you.

Euell Gibbons

Plants are created for the sake of animals, and the animals for the sake of men; the tame for our use and provision; the wild, at least for the greater part, for our provision also, or for some other advantageous purpose, as furnishing us with clothes, and the like.

Aristotle

Omickle is the powerful grace that lies in herbs, plants, stones, and their true qualities:
For nought so vile that on the earth doth live
But to the earth some special good doth give.

William Shakespeare

Plants are the young of the world, vessels of health and vigor; but they grope ever upward towards consciousness; the trees are imperfect men, and seem to bemoan their imprisonment, rooted in the ground.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

What America does not do well is anticipate and avoid problems. Unfortunately, many environmental phenomena involve thresholds that, when passes, cause damage that is essentially irreversible. If we wait until the damage occurs and then respond, it will be too late.

Denis Hayes

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

(Plants should be regarded as) jewels in the devalued currency of our world environment.

Uberto Tosco



One might consider an ideal series of parks as you might a great water system, using the metaphor of green water in massive lakes emptying into larger rivers and small creeks, rushing narrowly over waterfalls and flowing placidly and broadly through the flat countryside in a continuous sequence of parklands. Then it curls around and through cities in man-determined forms, held back by reservoirs, channeled over aqueducts and finally rising—as in Rome, in fountains, small ones in dusty corners and large, baroque ones in mighty plazas. Thus, the fields and trees of parks should be, as water, not scattered oases such as Yosemite, but a weaving, interconnected green mass that changes in size and purpose, but always interpenetrates forcibly but gently the urban, suburban, and rural scene.

William M. Roth

As long as you're on the side of parks, you're on the side of the angels.

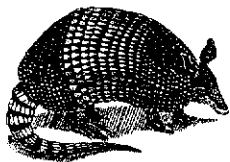
Robert Moses

What was a visit (to a park) like 25 years ago, and what is it like now? ...There is no way to increase the number of quality parks. People go to the parks for quiet, solitude, and the feeling of space.

Garrett Hardin

Also there was considerable distrust of planning in any form. Planning was something the government was going to do to you. The way people in democracies think of the government as something different from themselves is a real handicap. And, of course, sometimes the government confirms their opinion, unfortunately.

Lewis Mumford



The size of the parcel of land matters less than the relationship of the people to it.

Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins

The land is like poetry: it is inexplicably coherent, it is transcendent in its meaning, and it has the power to elevate a consideration of human life.

Barry Lopez

National parks and reserves are an integral aspect of intelligent use of natural resources. It is the course of wisdom to set aside an ample portion of our natural resources as national parks and reserves, thus ensuring that future generations may know the majesty of the earth as we know it today.

John F. Kennedy

The one overriding principle of the conservation movement is that no work of man (save the bare minimum of roads, trails, and necessary public facilities in access areas) should intrude into the wonder places of the National Park System.

Stewart I. Udall

I have a low opinion of books; they are but piles of stones set up to show travelers where other minds have been, or at best signal smokes to call attention....One day's exposure to mountains is better than a cart load of books.

John Muir

The smaller we come to feel ourselves compared to the mountain, the nearer we come to participating in its greatness. I do not know why this is so.

Arne Naess



John Muir

It seems to me that aesthetics is an area of immense ethical failure. We have a thousand times more ecological consciousness than aesthetic consciousness and we have a hundred times more consciousness of the issues of social equity in the ownership and use of land. Yet, aesthetics has no parity with equity and with ecology, even though aesthetics, more than any aspect of the land ethic, feeds the spirit in direct ways.

Charles E. Little

We recognize defeated landscapes by the absence of pleasure from them.

Wendell Berry

People need a model. If they can see a place become beautiful, they're inspired to act.

Marion Stoddart

Since the land is the parent, let the citizens take care of her more carefully than children do their mother.

Plato

Now would I give a thousand furlongs of sea for an acre of barren ground; long heath, brown furze, any thing.

William Shakespeare

Laws change; people die; the land remains.

Abraham Lincoln



Now I hear the sea sounds about me; the night high tide is rising, swirling with a confused rush of waters against the rocks below...

Once this rocky coast beneath me was a plain of sand; then the sea rose and ground a new shore line. And again in some shadowy future the surf will have ground these rocks to sand and will have returned the coast to its earlier state. And so in my mind's eye these coastal forms merge and blend in a shifting, kaleidoscopic pattern in which there is no finality, no ultimate and fixed reality—earth becoming fluid as the sea itself.

Rachel Carson

Unseen buds, infinite, hidden well,
Under the snow and ice, under the darkness, in
every square or cubic inch,
Germinal, exquisite, in delicate lace, microscopic,
unborn,
Like babes in wombs, latent, folded, compact,
sleeping;
Billions of billions, and trillions of trillions of them
waiting.
(On earth and in the sea—the universe—the stars
there in the heavens.)
Urging slowly, surely forward, forming endless,
And waiting ever more, forever more behind.

Walt Whitman

In the mountain, stillness surges up
to explore its own height;
In the lake, movement stands still
to contemplate its own depth.

Rabindranath Tagore



Man always kills the things he loves, and so
we the pioneers have killed our wilderness.
Some say we had to. Be that as it may, I am
glad I shall never be young without wild country
to be young in. Of what avail are forty freedoms
without a blank spot on the map?

Aldo Leopold

Since water still flows, though we cut it with
swords
And sorrow returns, though we drown it with wine,
Since the world can in no way answer to our
craving,
I will loosen my hair tomorrow and take to a
fishing boat.

Li Po

Every particle of every thing rock, water,
flower, human

has been in the same place flaming
in the heart of our ancient sun
before the earth
came flying out of it.

The irises in your eyes
the tissue of roses

the slow giant rocks in mountainheads

were all born flaming
locked in the sun as it drifted
like a light on dark water.

Lawrence Collins

I will sing the praises
Of this exalted peak
As long as I have breath.

Yamabe Akahito



I gave my heart to the mountains the minute I stood beside this river with its spray in my face and watched it thunder into foam, smooth to green glass over sunken rocks, shatter to foam again...

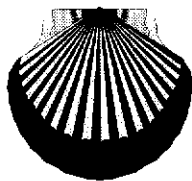
It was rare and comforting to waken late and hear the undiminished shouting of the water in the night. And at sunup it was still there, powerful and incessant, with the slant sun tangled in its rainbow spray, the grass blue with wetness, and the air heady as ether and scented with camp-fire smolder.

By such a river it is impossible to believe that one will ever be tired or old. Every sense applauds it. Taste it, feel its chill on the teeth; it is purity absolute. Watch its racing current, its steady renewal of force: it is transient and eternal. And listen again to its sounds: get far enough away so that the noise of falling tons of water does not stun the ears, and hear how much is going on underneath—a whole symphony of smaller sounds, hiss and splash and gurgle, the small talk of side channels, the whisper of blown and scattered spray gathering itself and beginning to flow again, secret and irresistible, among the wet rocks.

Wallace Stegner

The great sea
Has sent me adrift
It moves me
As the weed in a great river
Earth and the great weather
Move me
Have carried me away
And moved my inward parts with joy.

Uvavnuuk, Eskimo song



There is a great deal of talk these days about saving the environment. We must, for the environment sustains our bodies. But as humans we also require support for our spirits, and this is what certain kinds of places provide. The catalyst that converts any physical location—any environment if you will—into a place, is the process of experiencing deeply. A place is a piece of the whole environment that has been claimed by feelings. Viewed simply as a life-support system, the earth is an environment. Viewed as a resource that sustains our humanity, the earth is a collection of places. We never speak, for example, of an environment we have known; it is always places we have known—and recall. We are homesick for places, we are reminded of places, it is the sounds and smells and sights of places which haunt us and against which we often measure our present.

Alan Gussow, *A Sense of Place*

Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air, and to eat and sleep with the earth.

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills, and winding streams with tangled growth, as "wild." Only to the white man was nature a "wilderness" and only to him was the land "infested" with "wild" animals and "savage" people. To us it was tame. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with the blessings of the Great Mystery. Not until the hairy man from the east came and with brutal frenzy heaped injustices upon us and the families we loved was it "wild" for us. When the very animals of the forest began fleeing from his approach, then it was that for us the "Wild West" began.

Chief Luther Standing Bear



No site in the forest is without significance, not a glade, not a thicket that does not provide analogies to the labyrinth of human thoughts. Who among those people with a cultivated spirit, or whose heart has been wounded, can walk in a forest without the forest speaking to him?...If one searched for the causes of that sensation, at once solemn, simple, gentle, mysterious, that seizes one, perhaps it would be found in the sublime and ingenious spectacle of all the creatures obeying their destinies, immutably docile.

Honore de Balzac

For I have learned
To look on nature, not as in the hour
Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes
The still, sad music of humanity,
Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power
To chasten and subdue. And I have felt
A presence that disturbs me with the joy
Of elevated thoughts; a sense of sublime
Of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
And the round ocean and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the minds of man;
A motion and a spirit, that impels
All living things, all objects of all thought,
And rolls through all things. Therefore am I still
A lover of the meadows and the woods
And mountains, and of all that we behold
From this green earth, of all the mighty world
Of eye, and ear—both what they half create,
And what they perceive, will be pleased
to recognize
In nature and the Language of the sense
The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,
The guide, the guardian of my heart and soul
Of all my moral being.

William Wordsworth



If my soul could get away from this so-called prison, be granted all the list of attributes generally bestowed on spirits, my first ramble on spirit-wings would not be among the volcanoes of the moon. Nor should I follow the sunbeams to their sources in the sun. I should hover about the beauty of our own good star. I should not go moping among the tombs, nor around the artificial desolation of men. I should study Nature's laws in all their crossings and unions: I should follow magnetic streams to their source and follow the shores of our magnetic oceans. I should go among the rays of the aurora, and follow them to their beginnings, and study their dealings and communions with other powers and expressions of matter. And I should go to the very center of our globe and read the whole splendid page from the beginning.

John Muir

I settled at Cold Mountain long ago,
 Already it seems like years and years. Freely
 drifting, I prowls the woods and streams
 And linger watching things themselves. Men
 don't get this far into the mountains.
 White clouds gather and billow. Thin grass does
 for a mattress. The blue sky makes a good quilt.
 Happy with a stone under head, Let heaven
 and earth go about their changes.

Gary Snyder, *Riprap and Cold Mountain Poems*



(Micheal Astroff) says that forests are the ornaments of the earth, that they teach mankind to understand beauty and attune his mind to lofty sentiments. Forests temper a stern climate, and in countries where the climate is milder, less strength is wasted in the battle with nature, and the people are kind and gentle.

Anton Chekhov

A land not mine, still
forever memorable,
the waters of its ocean
chill and fresh.

Sand on the bottom whiter than chalk,
and the air drunk, like wine,
late sun lays bare
the rosy limbs of the pine trees.

Sunset in the ethereal waves:
I cannot tell if the day
is ending, or the world, or if
the secret of secrets is inside me again.

Ann Akmatova

The great sea stirs me.
The great sea sets me adrift,
it sways me like the weed
on a river-stone.

The sky's height stirs me.
The strong wind blows through my mind.
It carries me with it,
so I shake with joy.

Uvavruk

The forest stretched no living man knew how
far. That was the dead, sealed world of the
vegetable kingdom, an uncharted continent with
interlocking trees, living, dead, half-dead, their
roots in bogs and swamps, strangling each other
in a slow agony that had lasted for centuries. The
forest was suffocation, annihilation.

Willa Cather



Return me, oh sun,
to my wild destiny,
rain of the ancient wood,
bring me back to the aroma and the swords
that fall from the sky,
the solitary peace of pasture and rock,
the damp at the river-margins,
the smell of the larch tree,
the wind alive like a heart
beating in the crowded restlessness
of the towering araucaria.

Earth, give me back your pure gifts,
the towers of silence which rose
from the solemnity of their roots.
I want to go back to being what I have not been,
and learn to go back from such depths
that amongst all natural things
I could live or not live; it does not matter
to be one stone more, the dark stone,
the pure stone which the river bears away.

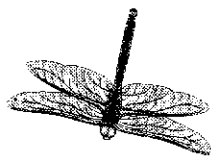
Pablo Neruda

The wooing of the Earth thus implies much more than converting the wilderness into humanized environments. It means also preserving natural environments in which to experience mysteries transcending daily life and from which to recapture, in a Proustian kind of remembrance, the awareness of the cosmic forces that have shaped humankind.

Rene Dubos

Each day comes to me with both hands full of possibilities, and in its brief course I discern all the verities and realities of my existence; the bliss of growth, the glory of action, the spirit of beauty.

Helen Keller



One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.
William Shakespeare

If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer; but if he spends his whole day as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making earth bald before her time, he is esteemed an industrious and enterprising citizen.
Henry David Thoreau

In wildness is the preservation of the world.
Henry David Thoreau

Nature includes all of the universe and man is not only a part of nature, he is in it up to his neck.

N.J. Berrill

No beast has ever conquered the earth; and the natural world has never been conquered by muscular force.

Liberty Hyde Baily

The earth, like the sun, like the air, belongs to everyone - and to no one.

Edward Abby



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One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds.

Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen. An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise.

Aldo Leopold, (1886-1948)



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